

19A

# R E P O R T

OF

## T H E I N S P E C T O R S

OF THE

# W E S T E R N P E N I T E N T I A R Y

O F P E N N S Y L V A N I A ,

**For 1851.**



THE 1883

ADDITIONAL

TO THE 1883

ADDITIONAL

TO THE 1883

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTORS  
OF THE  
WESTERN PENITENTIARY  
OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
FOR THE YEAR 1851.

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WESTERN PENITENTIARY, Jan. 2, 1852.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:*

GENTLEMEN—The Board of Inspectors of the Western Penitentiary have the honor to present to the Legislature their Annual Report.

In submitting this account of their stewardship, they have the pleasure to renew to you the assurance of their unabated confidence in the Pennsylvania System of Prison Discipline. The day for theoretical speculation has gone by, and the practical results, manifested in its successful administration in this institution, have dissipated the apprehensions of the skeptic, and silenced the arguments of the unbeliever. Since the first retributive exaction for penal offences, there has been no device of human legislation so just to the criminal, and so pregnant of good consequences to the public. While it protects the community from the depredations of the hardened and unprincipled, it seeks to renew his



rotten physical and moral constitution, and restore him to the attitude and image of a man. Diversified as are the dispositions of the convicts, and varied as may be their respective shades of criminality, the system, dispensed in the spirit of the law, moulds itself to the wants and circumstances of all. Not only does the health of the inmates challenge comparison with any similar number of individuals in the most favored communities, but *moral reformation*, the great end and object of the "separate" code, advances with a gradual proficiency, that elevates the unfortunate subjects under our control above the level they occupied in the social circle, at the date of their sentence and incarceration. Without dilating upon a theme so prolific of argument, and so gratifying to the philanthropic hearts of the benevolent and the good, permit us to say, that this system, if permitted to remain untouched by the sacrilegious hand of innovation, will stand, "high and lifted up," a proud monument to the wisdom of PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATION.

We invite your attention to the annexed Reports of the Warden, Physician, and Moral Instructor, all containing satisfactory exhibits of the condition of their respective departments, and all concurring in the views so frequently expressed by the Board, of the salutary effects of our Prison discipline.

The Warden reminds us of the absolute necessity for another range of cells, in consequence of a greater number of convicts than we have ever had at any former period. This augmentation in the criminal calendar is to be attributed to the increased and rapidly increasing population of the Western counties—to the concentration of large numbers of vicious individuals, upon works of public enterprise, in our vicinity,—but above all, (and it is a painful and melancholy admission to make, favored as we are in the sight of the MOST HIGH,) to be traced to the *intemperate use of intoxicating beverages*, that all-pervading destroyer of the peace and hap-

piness of mankind. Upon the political sagacity of the General Assembly we rely, to supply a remedy; but while the pernicious evil exists, we must mourn over its appalling statistics, and enlarge the receptacles for its degraded devotees. In contravention of the spirit of the law, we have been compelled to duplicate the convicts in a number of the cells, and so long as this necessity prevails, we apprehend injurious consequences, from the association of kindred spirits in such close proximity.

Early apprized of the approaching plethora in the Prison, we addressed a communication to His Excellency, the Governor, calling his attention to the subject; and we are gratified to learn, by his last Annual Message, that, with proper solicitude for the security of his fellow-citizens, he has recommended an immediate appropriation for the object in view.

This addition to the number of convicts requires a corresponding increase in the numerical strength of the internal police of the Prison. We have appointed an additional overseer, and watchman, for which we respectfully ask an appropriation.

The demands from this quarter upon the State Treasury have been so "few and far between," and the admirable economy and skill of our meritorious Warden, A. BECKHAM, Esq. having for many years relieved the county treasuries from the burden of subsisting their prisoners, we are justified in the expectation, that you will readily and promptly comply with our recommendations.

The Physician has our approbation in repelling, with commendable self-respect, the assaults upon his previous Reports of the sanitary condition of the convicts. Our bills of mortality are in such striking and favorable contrast with similar institutions elsewhere, that the credulity of the medical skeptic is taxed to ascertain a reason for the difference. He will find it in the better administration of this



Prison, and in the eminent ability of the distinguished gentleman we have selected to preside over this important and interesting department.

The General Assembly will peruse with pleasure the Report of the Moral Instructor. The zeal of the Christian minister, and the attributes of his holy office, are enlisted in tempering and converting the rough material that inhabits a convict's cell. Of those discharged, many go on their way rejoicing, and in the fullness of their hearts proclaim, that "it was good for them to be there."

Books, instruction, and, principally, that fountain of light, the BIBLE, taught and inculcated here, have arrested numbers in their progress on the broad avenue which leads to temporal and eternal perdition.

The Clerk and Overseers have discharged the duties incumbent upon them, to the satisfaction of, and merited the thanks of, the Board of Inspectors.

Reminding you of the usual annual appropriation for the subsistence of Officers,

We have the honor to be,

Most respectfully, Your obedient servants,

JAMES ANDERSON,  
WM. LECKY,  
WILSON M'CANDLESS,  
WM. ROBINSON, JR.  
J. K. MOORHEAD.

## WARDEN'S REPORT.

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WESTERN PENITENTIARY, Jan. 1, 1852.

*To the Board of Inspectors:*

GENTLEMEN—I again lay before you the Annual Statement of the condition of this Prison.

A very general state of good health has prevailed among the prisoners throughout the whole of the past year. Two deaths, only, have occurred in the prison.

The conduct of the prisoners throughout the year has been in general orderly and quiet, with a single exception: an unprovoked and violent assault was made by a prisoner upon his overseer, producing, however, no serious injury.

The excellent physical and mental health of the prisoners has strengthened my convictions in favor of the *separate system*. No case of insanity has occurred in the past year.

We have now in confinement one hundred and seventy-four prisoners, viz: one hundred and seventy-one males and three females. We have received one hundred and ten, and discharged seventy.

The increase of numbers is very discouraging. In 1849, we had in confinement one hundred and twenty-three convicts; in 1850, the number increased to one hundred and thirty-four; and the last year, it has arisen to one hundred and seventy-four—a higher number than ever was in this prison before.

This is owing, no doubt, to the large increase of population brought by our public works, bearing with it that fatal destroyer, *intemperance*.

This increase in numbers makes it altogether necessary that we should have another section of cells; or the result will be a great disadvantage to our system.



The whole number received since the opening of the prison, July 1st, 1826, is fifteen hundred and fifty-two, viz: twelve hundred and seventy-six white males and twenty-six white females, and two hundred and eleven colored males and thirty-nine colored females.

You will find connected with this Report the statement of the Clerk, presenting the pecuniary condition of the Institution.

For the success which has attended this Institution during the year, much credit is due to the efficiency and industry of the officers of the prison. To each and to all, as heretofore, I feel much indebted; and again cheerfully bear testimony to their faithfulness in the discharge of their various duties.

I take pleasure in acknowledging my obligations to you, Gentlemen, for your kindness and efficient aid, at all times so cheerfully rendered, in sustaining the interests of this Institution.

Very respectfully,

A. BECKHAM, *Warden.*



## TABLES.

Prisoners in confinement, January 1st, 1852.		Received and Discharged in the year 1851.							Received during 1851.			Discharged in the following months of the year 1851:											
COUNTIES.	Number.	Received.	Discharged.	Pardoned.	Died.	Writ of Er'r.	Hab. Corpus.	Total.	Tot. Disch'd.	Jan. 1, 1852.	MONTHS.	Males.	Females.	Total.	MONTHS.	Males.	Females.	Time Expl'd.	Pardoned.	Died.	Writ of Er'r.	Hab. Corpus.	Total.
Allegheny,.....	51	48	17	6	1	..	..	99	24	75	Jan'y.	13	..	13	Jan'y.	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Armstrong,.....	6	2	1	..	1	..	..	8	2	6	Febr'y.	8	1	9	Feb'y.	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Bedford,.....	2	2	..	1	..	..	..	4	1	3	March,	5	..	5	March,	11	..	11	..	..	..	..	11
Beaver,.....	9	4	5	2	..	..	1	13	8	5	April,	16	..	16	April,	10	2	7	4	1	..	..	12
Butler,.....	5	4	3	4	..	..	2	9	9	..	May,	7	..	7	May,	7	..	3	3	1	..	..	7
Cambria,.....	2	6	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	8	June,	10	..	10	June,	5	..	4	1	..	..	..	5
Clarion,.....	2	3	1	1	..	..	..	5	2	3	July,	5	..	5	July,	6	..	4	2	..	..	..	6
Erie,.....	11	2	6	3	..	..	..	13	8	5	Aug.	2	..	2	August,	5	..	5	..	..	..	..	5
Fayette,.....	5	4	4	..	..	..	..	9	4	5	Sept'r.	6	..	6	Sept'r.	8	..	7	1	..	..	..	8
Green,.....	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	Oct'r.	5	..	5	October,	8	..	3	2	..	..	3	8
Huntingdon,.....	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	5	Nov'r.	18	1	18	Nov'r.	6	..	2	4	..	..	..	6
Jefferson,.....	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	Dec'r.	12	1	13	Dec'r.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mercer,.....	9	4	1	1	..	..	..	13	2	11	Total,	107	3	110	Total,	68	2	46	19	2	..	3	70
Somerset,.....	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	1	1													
Venango,.....	2	1	2	..	..	..	..	3	2	1													
Washington,.....	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	8													
Westmoreland,.....	4	8	1	..	..	..	..	12	1	11													
Potter,.....	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	1	2													
Crawford,.....	4	1	2	..	..	..	..	5	2	3													
Indiana,.....	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	4													
Blair,.....	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	3	1	2													
Clearfield,.....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1													
Warren,.....	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3													
M'Kean,.....	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	4													
Lawrence,.....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1													
United States,.....	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	5	1	4													
Total,.....	134	110	46	19	2	..	3	244	70	174													

OCCUPATIONS.				
Painters,.....	2	Carpenters,.....	5	
Boatmen,.....	13	Pedler,.....	1	
Butchers,.....	2	Salesman,.....	1	
Grocer,.....	1	Idleness,.....	2	
Cooks,.....	7	Machinist,.....	1	
Teachers,.....	4	Housekeepers,.....	2	
Drayman,.....	1	Inn-keeper,.....	1	
Barbers,.....	2	Brick Moulder,.....	1	
Laborers,.....	53	Millers,.....	2	
Cotton Operator,...	1	Tanner and Currier,	1	
Shoemakers,.....	13	Up'holsterer,.....	1	
Turners,.....	3	Moulder,.....	1	
Coal-miners,.....	3	Clerk,.....	1	
Tailors,.....	3	Stage Driver,.....	1	
Coopers,.....	2	Printer,.....	1	
Gunsmiths,.....	3	Plasterer,.....	1	
Weavers,.....	6	Farmers,.....	3	
Blacksmiths,.....	6	Doctor,.....	1	
House Servants,...	2	Baker,.....	1	
Oyster Pedler,.....	1	Stone Masons,.....	3	
Hostler,.....	1	Coach Maker,.....	1	
Miners,.....	3	Dress Maker,.....	1	
Bricklayer,.....	1	Stocking Weaver,...	1	
Tinners,.....	2	Soldiers,.....	2	
Real Estate Agent,...	1	Wagon Makers,.....	2	

RELATIONS.			
	Rec'd, 1851.	Disch'd, 1851.	Jan. 1st, 1852.
Married,.....	37	28	113
Unmarried,.....	69	38	61
Widowers and Widows,.....	4	..	..
Total,.....	110	70	174

HABITS.			
	Rec'd, 1851.	Disch'd, 1851.	Jan. 1st, 1852.
Temperate,.....	13	12	7
Moderate,.....	12	6	27
Intemperate,.....	35	52	140
Total,.....	110	70	174

AGE.			
	Rec'd, 1851.	Disch'd, 1851.	Tot. Jan. 1852.
From 10 to 20,.....	20	9	26
" 20 to 30,.....	53	32	82
" 30 to 40,.....	24	17	52
" 40 to 50,.....	7	9	8
" 50 to 60,.....	5	3	5
" 60 to 70,.....	1	..	1
Total,.....	110	70	174

## OCCUPATIONS.

Painters,.....	2	Carpenters,.....	5
Boatmen,.....	13	Pedler,.....	1
Butchers,.....	2	Salesman,.....	1
Grocer,.....	1	Idleness,.....	2
Cooks,.....	7	Machinist,.....	1
Teachers,.....	4	Housekeepers,.....	2
Drayman,.....	1	Inn-keeper,.....	1
Barbers,.....	2	Brick Moulder,.....	1
Laborers,.....	53	Millers,.....	2
Cotton Operator,...	1	Tanner and Currier,	1
Shoemakers,.....	13	Upholsterer,.....	1
Turners,.....	3	Moulder,.....	1
Coal-miners,.....	3	Clerk,.....	1
Tailors,.....	3	Stage Driver,.....	1
Coopers,.....	2	Printer,.....	1
Gunsmiths,.....	3	Plasterer,.....	1
Weavers,.....	6	Farmers,.....	3
Blacksmiths,.....	6	Doctor,.....	1
House Servants,...	2	Baker,.....	1
Oyster Pedler,.....	1	Stone Masons,.....	3
Hostler,.....	1	Coach Maker,.....	1
Miners,.....	3	Dress Maker,.....	1
Bricklayer,.....	1	Stocking Weaver,...	1
Tinners,.....	2	Soldiers,.....	2
Real Estate Agent,...	1	Wagon Makers,....	2

NATIVES OF		Term of Sentence.								Received in following years.		Prisoners discharged during the following years.										
		Rec'd 1851	For Years	Months	Dischrg. 1851	For Years	Months	Tot. Jan. 1, 1852.	Y	Months	YEARS.	Num'b'r.	Years.	Expiration.	Pardoned.	Deaths.	Suicide.	Escapes.	Re-committ.	Writ of Err.	Hab. Corpus.	Total each year.
Penn'a,...	73	1	..	6	1	..	7	1	..	6	1826,	10	1826,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kentucky,	1	2	..	9	1	..	0	2	..	9	1827,	29	1827,	6	2	..	..	5	..	..	..	13
Maryland,	7	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1828,	43	1828,	15	4	2	..	5	..	..	..	26
Ireland, ..	24	4	1	2	2	1	2	8	1	3	1829,	43	1829,	17	8	..	..	1	..	..	..	24
Virginia,...	6	8	1	6	3	1	3	1	1	4	1830,	39	1830,	31	2	3	..	1	..	..	..	37
Canada, ..	2	2	1	8	1	1	5	9	1	6	1831,	44	1831,	33	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	40
Scotland, .	2	3	1	9	2	1	6	2	1	8	1832,	47	1832,	13	10	..	..	1	1	..	..	25
Germany, ..	16	23	2	0	1	1	9	5	1	9	1833,	68	1833,	32	16	3	..	1	..	..	..	52
Poland, ...	1	1	2	3	3	1	10	3	1	10	1834,	48	1834,	46	15	2	..	1	1	..	..	63
Mass. ....	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	1	1835,	68	1835,	29	5	4	..	1	..	..	..	37
Connec't. .	3	1	2	6	2	2	6	1	2	2	1836,	53	1836,	58	2	4	..	2	2	..	..	64
Tennessee,	2	5	2	6	3	2	6	1	2	2	1837,	45	1837,	51	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
New York, 14	1	11	3	..	1	2	9	3	2	3	1838,	56	1838,	42	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	53
France, ...	2	1	3	6	1	2	10	18	2	6	1839,	84	1839,	42	12	2	1	..	..	..	..	57
Ohio, .....	5	1	3	..	5	3	..	1	2	7	1840,	79	1840,	54	19	1	..	..	..	..	..	74
Delaware, ..	2	5	4	6	1	3	6	2	2	9	1841,	90	1841,	54	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	68
Louisi'a. ..	1	1	4	9	2	4	6	14	3	..	1842,	69	1842,	46	16	5	..	..	..	..	..	67
England, .	4	3	5	6	1	4	9	1	3	4	1843,	70	1843,	63	16	6	..	..	..	..	..	85
N. Jersey, ..	3	1	5	9	1	5	8	4	3	6	1844,	60	1844,	50	22	6	..	..	..	..	..	78
Maine, ...	1	2	9	..	1	6	..	5	4	..	1845,	70	1845,	42	23	4	..	..	1	..	..	70
Vermont, .	1	1	9	9	1	9	..	3	4	6	1846,	60	1846,	43	15	6	..	..	..	..	..	64
Total, ..	174	1	10	6	2	10	..	4	4	11	1847,	56	1847,	50	17	3	..	1	1	..	..	70
		1	11	..	1	12	..	8	5	..	1848,	55	1848,	44	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	52
		1	11	6	..	..	..	3	5	6	1849,	84	1849,	54	15	7	..	..	..	..	..	76
		1	11	9	..	..	..	1	5	9	1850,	72	1850,	44	16	1	..	..	..	..	..	61
		1	16	..	..	..	..	1	6	..	1851,	110	1851,	46	19	2	..	..	..	3	..	70
		1	17	9	..	..	..	4	7	..	Tot.	1552										
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	7	6												
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	7	10												
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	8	..	By Expiration, .....	1005										
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	8	9	" Pardons, .....	281										
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	9	..	" Deaths, .....	77										
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	9	9	" Suicide, .....	1										
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	9	9	" Escapes, .....	17										
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	10	..	" Escapes Re-committed, .....	7										
		..	..	..	..	..	..	2	10	6	" Writ of Error, .....	1										
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	10	9	" Habcas Corpus, .....	3										
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	11	6												1378
		..	..	..	..	..	..	2	11	9	Prisoners confined, January 1, 1852, .....											174
		..	..	..	..	..	..	4	12	..												
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	12	5												
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	14	..												
		..	..	..	..	..	..	2	16	..												
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	17	9												
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	30	..												
Total,		110	..	..	70	..	..	174	..	..												

	Tot. Jan 1, 1852.	Disch'd. 1851.	Rec'd, 1851.
Bound and served time out, .....	11	11	40
Bound and runaway from master, ..	6	1	99
Were never bound, .....	93	58	35
Total, .....	110	70	174

	Re-committed second time under Pennsylvania system, .....	Re-committed third time, .....	Do. fourth time, .....
	8	2	

TOTAL NUMBER OF PRISONERS Received since the admission of the first Prisoner, July 1, 1826.		
White Males, .....	1276	
White Females, .....	26	
Colored Males, .....	211	
Colored Females, .....	39	
Total, .....	1552	

Crimes for which they were committed.	Received, 1851.	Discharged, 1851.	Total, Jan. 1st, 1852.
Arson, .....	3	4	3
Murder, second degree, .....	3	2	10
Larceny, .....	60	44	85
Forgery, .....	3	1	4
Burglary, .....	11	4	10
Horse Stealing, .....	7	..	14
Conspiracy, .....	..	..	1
Larceny and Horse Stealing, .....	..	..	6
Passing Countefreit Money, .....	4	3	6
Larceny and Arson, .....	..	..	1
Assault and Battery, with int. to kill, ..	2	4	5
Robbery, .....	..	1	3
Rape, .....	3	4	6
Breaking in House, .....	..	..	1
Passing Counterfeit Coin, .....	2	..	2
Mayhem, .....	..	..	1
Misdemeanor, .....	1	..	1
Riot, .....	1	..	1
Perjury, .....	..	1	..
Embezzling Letters, .....	..	1	1
Counterfeiting Notes, .....	1	..	2
Man-slaughter, .....	2	..	3
Uttering Forged Notes, .....	1	..	1
Keeping a Bawdy and Tippling House, ..	1	..	1
Coining, .....	1	..	1
Burglary and Larceny, .....	2	..	2
Bigamy, .....	2	1	3



## ACCOUNT OF LABOR

*In the Western Penitentiary, for the year 1851.*

### WEAVING.

DR.

To materials on hand, 1st January, 1851, - - - - -	\$386 11
To amount of materials purchased from 1st Jan. to Dec. 31st, 1851, - - - - -	2 920 24
	<hr/>
	\$3,306 35
To Profit and Loss, - - - - -	1,408 61
	<hr/>
	\$4,714 96

CR.

By amount manufactured from 1st Jan. to Dec. 31st, 1851, - - - - -	\$4,238 15
By materials on hand, Dec. 31st, 1851, - - - - -	476 81
	<hr/>
	\$4,714 96

### SHOEMAKING.

DR.

To materials on hand, 1st January, 1851, - - - - -	\$785 51
To amount of materials purchased from 1st Jan. to Dec. 31st, 1851, - - - - -	9,203 64
	<hr/>
	\$9,989 15
To Profit and Loss, - - - - -	5,592 68
	<hr/>
	\$15,581 83

CR.

By amount manufactured from 1st Jan. to Dec. 31st, 1851, - - - - -	\$14,446 42
By materials on hand, Dec. 31st, 1851, - - - - -	1,135 41
	<hr/>
	\$15,581 83

### SUBSISTENCE.

DR.

To amount expended for Subsistence, from 1st Jan. 1851, - - - - -	
to Dec. 31st, 1851, - - - - -	\$11,577 81

CR.

By Profit and Loss, - - - - -	\$11,577 81
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### PROFIT AND LOSS.

DR.

To Subsistence, - - - - -	\$11,577 81
To Stock, - - - - -	751 54
	<hr/>
	\$12,329 35

CR.

By Weaving, - - - - -	\$1,408 61
" Shoemaking, - - - - -	5,592 68
" Merchandise, - - - - -	5,098 83
" Tailoring, - - - - -	229 23
	<hr/>
	\$12,329 35

*To the Board of Inspectors of the Western Penitentiary.*

Respectfully submitted.

JANUARY 1st, 1852.

JAS. ALEXANDER, Clerk.



## PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

WESTERN PENITENTIARY, Jan. 1st, 1852.

GENTLEMEN,

The termination of another year brings with it the duty to present the Annual Report of the state of health of prisoners in confinement for that period.

It is, indeed, with sincere pleasure, that I am enabled to state that, notwithstanding the number of convicts has been much greater than formerly, there has been, in no year, since my connection with this institution, such a *general* prevalence of good health, and so few *individual* cases of serious disease. There has been a steady advance in the state of health of this prison for a few years past; and, during the *last* year, it has attained to as high a point as can reasonably be hoped for.

Under the Pennsylvania System of Prison Discipline, properly administered, there are few causes operating to produce severe acute diseases—and few, very few, occur. Where each prisoner has a good-sized room, well lighted and ventilated; with an abundance of pure, fresh water; wholesome and well-cooked food; moderate labor; his mind instructed and moral affections guided by the teachings and conversations of the Moral Instructor and other officers, as well as by judiciously selected books, which he has ample time to peruse—where all these are possessed and enjoyed, there is not much to be found to act injuriously upon the physical or intellectual man.

The chief amount of disease, in all prisons, that goes to swell the bills of mortality, is of a chronic character, and had commenced its ravages in the broken constitutions of the depraved, the intemperate, and dissolute, before their reception into the prison. Scrofulous or tuberculous diseases are stated in all prison reports as those which prostrate and finally destroy most of those who die while in confinement. Under the treatment by Cod Liver Oil, which has been practiced in this institution for *seven years*, (being the whole period of my official connection with the prison,) such diseases have lost most of their formidable character—almost every case, where the constitution has not been utterly broken up, being cured, greatly benefitted, or arrested in its rapid progress.

Having got rid, in a great measure, of this source of suffering and death, the general state of health within the prison is as good as amongst an equal number of persons without its walls, who have been subjected to the influence of circumstances in any way as trying to physical vigor as those under which most live before they become inmates of a penitentiary. Indeed, the health within the prison is better—for the convicts, in a majority of cases, while in confinement here, are in circumstances so much more favorable to the preservation and restoration of health than previously to their admission, that they become invigorated and renewed, and leave, at least as far as their physical and mental condition is concerned, in a better state than when they entered. This is a fact, Gentlemen, known to you all, and to every officer of the prison, and frequently remarked by the prisoner himself. The bills of mortality of this prison will compare advantageously with those of the general population of our large cities, as furnished by the statistics of the late census.

No case of insanity has originated in the prison within the past year. There were two cases of mental hallucina-



tion of quite a temporary character—but the same disturbances of mind had manifested themselves occasionally before imprisonment.

Three prisoners, on account of feeble health, were permitted to walk in the prison yard for one hour each day, for about ten days. With these exceptions, and the convicts employed in the bakery, kitchen, &c. every prisoner has been strictly and uninterruptedly confined to his cell, and the discipline of the “separate system” strictly adhered to.

Such facts, Gentlemen, are annually published in your Reports, yet there are still found some who denounce the “Pennsylvania System” as destructive to physical and mental health. Some make this assertion, because their *theory* would *compel* men, under such circumstances, to die or go mad, and they are not going to allow any things called *facts* to disturb their pet. Some say, “The *standard* of health cannot be so high as *we* place it; ours is *very elevated*”—how self-complacent! Others insinuate, “Oh! those *cannot* be *all* the facts—*something must* be kept back; convicts are not kept *strictly separate*, or they are not kept constantly *within* their cells—they are allowed to *exercise* in the *prison yard*,” &c. &c. Such an opponent of the system has no manliness; and rather than receive the truth and forsake prejudice, in view of authenticated facts, he will insinuate falsehood, misrepresentation and concealment on the part of officers whose veracity and integrity are involved in every Report they publish, but shuns the responsibility of boldly and distinctly making the charge of baseness.

There have been in confinement, during the year, two hundred and forty-four prisoners,—one hundred and thirty-four in the prison on the first day of January, 1851, and one hundred and ten received in the course of the year; at present, there are one hundred and seventy-four. Of the number, two have died during the year. No. 1196, male, white, died April 2d, 1851. His death was a happy release



from sufferings that could not be assuaged, but, necessarily, must be aggravated by confinement within a prison. His case has been referred to in previous annual, as well as my monthly, reports, as that of a hopelessly insane man. As such, he was received into the prison, and not a ray of undisturbed reason or cheering sunshine ever shone upon his gloomy, distracted, and unhappy mind, during his incarceration of three years and ten months! Pennsylvania has, at last, wiped off this shame-spot to her humanity and Christianity, by providing another asylum than a penitentiary for such Providentially unfortunates. His father and brother committed suicide while insane, and he had made several attempts upon his life before his entrance into the prison. He was in a very feeble condition when received, and, at last, wore away under the effects of continual mental disturbance, with tuberculous disease of lungs, refusing, almost entirely, medical aid. He received every possible attention and kindness at the hands of the Warden and other officers.

No. 1320, male, black, died May 20th, 1851, of effusion into the right side of the chest, consequent upon pleurisy. He had been in prison one year and eleven months. On reception, his *general* health was good, though he had suffered from former pleuritic attacks.

The following tables exhibit the sex, color, duration of imprisonment, state of health on reception and discharge, of each prisoner discharged during the year:—

*Prisoners Discharged by Expiration of Sentence.*

TIME IN PRISON.					STATE OF HEALTH ON RECEPTION.	STATE OF HEALTH ON DISCHARGE
NO.	SEX.	COLOR.	YR.	MO.		
1385	M.	Mulat.	1	0	General health good: subject to attacks of cough since he suffered from measles 1 year: two sisters died of Consumption.	In equally good health.
1296	M.	White,	0	10	Good health, - - - - -	Good.
1298	M.	White,	2	1	“ “ - - - - -	“
1296	M.	White,	2	1	General health good: subject to dry cough: chest flat and contracted: maternal family consumptive. - - - - -	“
1373	M.	White,	1	2	Constitution injured by intemperance: subject to convulsions.	Greatly improved.
1374	M.	White,	1	2	Good health, - - - - -	Good.
1300	M.	White,	2	0	General health good; not robust; family consumptive: lower jaw fractured more than two months since; not yet united. - - -	“
1302	M.	Mulat.	2	0	Feeble—says he “is sickly,”	Improved.

NO.	SEX.	COLOR.	YR.	MO.	STATE OF HEALTH ON RECEPTION.	STATE OF HEALTH ON DISCHARGE
1303	M.	Black,	2	0	Slight dulness on precussion over lower part of right lung; has had several attacks of infl. of lungs.	In same condition.
1389	M.	White,	1	0	Good—constitution not robust,	Good.
1391	M.	White,	1	0	Feeble health, - - - - -	Feeble health.
1309	M.	White,	2	0	Very feeble health; soft palate, end bones of nose destroyed by serofulous ulceration; extensive scars on neck, from serofulous abscesses; "subject to convulsions."	Improved general health.
1414	M.	White,	0	8	Good health, - - - - -	Good health.
1375	M.	White,	1	3	" " - - - - -	" "
1345	M.	White,	1	6	Left lung diseased—subject to frequent attacks of Diarrhœa.	General health improved, and no increase of lung disease.
1395	M.	White,	1	0	Feeble constitution, - - -	Improved health.
1381	F.	Mulat.	1	3	Good health, - - - - -	Good health.
1313	M.	Mulat.	2	0	Suffering from Dyspepsia, -	Improved health.
1328	M.	Mulat.	1	9	Feeble from intermitt'nt fever,	Good health.
1276	M.	Mulat.	2	6	Good health, - - - - -	" "
1363	M.	Mulat.	1	5	" " - - - - -	" "
1358	M.	Mulat.	1	6	" " - - - - -	" "
1359	M.	Mulat.	1	6	Good health. Mother died of Pulmonary Consump.	" "
1360	M.	Mulat.	1	6	" " - - - - -	" "
1319	M.	Black,	2	0	" " - - - - -	" "
1254	M.	White,	3	0	" " - - - - -	" "
1280	M.	White,	1	6	Right lung diseased, - - -	In same condition.
1376	<sup>11 yrs. of age.</sup> M.M.		1	6	Good health—not robust, - -	Good health.
1292	M.	White,	2	6	Good health, - - - - -	" "
1407	M.	White,	1	0	General health good; subject to attacks of aberration of mind, caused by injury to head several years since.	" "
1261	M.	White,	3	0	Good health. Family short lived.	" "
1337	M.	White,	1	11	Feeble health. Parents died of Consumption.	Improved health.
1283	M.	White,	2	9	Good health. Family consumptive.	Good health.
1411	M.	White,	1	0	" " - - - - -	" "
1418	M.	White,	1	0	" " - - - - -	" "
1417	M.	White,	1	0	Left lung diseased, - - -	General health improved.
1412	M.	White,	1	0	Good health, - - - - -	Good health.
1331	M.	White,	2	0	" " - - - - -	" "
1332	M.	White,	2	0	" " - - - - -	" "
1338	M.	White,	2	0	" " - - - - -	" "
1388	M.	White,	1	6	General health good. Very intemperate.	" "
1362	M.	White,	1	10	" " " "	" "
1369	M.	Mulat.	1	10	Good health, - - - - -	" "
1272	M.	White,	3	0	" " - - - - -	" "
1420	M.	White,	1	0	Chronic; crofulous. Ulcers on scalp and leg.	Improved; ulcers healed.
1357	M.	White,	2	0	Good health, - - - - -	Good health.
1456	M.	White,	0	9	" " - - - - -	" "
1457	M.	White,	0	9	Constitution injured by intemperance.	" "
1474	M.	White,	0	7	Good health, - - - - -	" "



*Prisoners Discharged by Pardon.*

No.	SEX.	COLOR.	YR.	Mo.	STATE OF HEALTH ON RECEPTION.	STATE OF HEALTH ON DISCHARGE.
1260	M.	White,	3	0	Good health, - - - - -	Good health.
1361	M.	White,	1	2	“ “ - - - - -	“ “
1403	M.	White,	0	10	Diseased lung, - - - - -	Improved health.
1441	F.	White,	0	4	Scrofulous constitution. - -	In same condition.
1406	M.	White,	0	9	Feeble constitution, - - -	Improved health.
1415	M.	White,	0	7	Good health, - - - - -	Good health.
1408	M.	White,	0	9	Feeble health. <small>Sev'ral memb'rs of family died of Consump.</small>	Feeble health. <small>As good as on reception.</small>
1416	M.	White,	0	8	Good, - - - - -	Good health.
1405	M.	White,	0	10	Good health, - - - - -	“ “
1451	M.	White,	0	4	“ “ - - - - -	“ “
1459	M.	White,	0	5	“ “ - - - - -	“ “
1354	M.	White,	0	8	<small>Chronic disease of stomach—left lung diseased—several of family died of consumpt'n.</small>	Slightly improved.
1433	M.	White,	0	10	Good health: family consumpt.	Good health.
1039	M.	White,	7	0	Good health, - - - - -	Good health. <small>In weight much increased</small>
1274	M.	White,	3	0	“ “ - - - - -	Good health.
1353	M.	White,	2	0	“ “ - - - - -	“ “
1453	M.	White,	0	10	} <small>Twin brothers. Each had Inguinal Hernia, and is blind of left eye. Feeble intellect.</small>	In same condition.
1454	M.	White,	0	10		
1236	M.	White,	3	7	Good health, - - - - -	Good health.

In the discharge of my duties, I have uniformly received the kind, prompt, and efficient aid of the Warden, and every officer of the prison, and cheerfully express my sense of obligation to them.

Very respectfully,

T. F. DAKE, M. D.

*To the Board of Inspectors of Western Penitentiary of Pa.*





## MORAL INSTRUCTOR'S REPORT.

WESTERN PENITENTIARY, Jan. 1, 1852.

*To the Board of Inspectors:*

GENTLEMEN—The time has again arrived when it is made the duty of the Moral Instructor in this Institution, to report to you the moral and religious character of the prisoners, as the result of the labors of the year which has just terminated. In this representation of the workings of a system designed to effect the reformation of a degraded and outcast portion of our race, there will be found abundant reason of thankfulness to Him whose mission into our world contemplated the salvation of the *lost*. Those who are shut up in this prison-house, *are emphatically lost*. They come here regarded as bad men, destitute of moral character. It is an important feature in the *penal system* of our Commonwealth to reform, and, if possible, to save such characters as these.

A large majority of those whom justice and the law consign to these walls, are, indeed, reckless and unprincipled men, with no moral education whatever—habitual violators of the Sabbath, and slaves to the debasing vice of drunkenness. Many of them, too, are naturally weak minded—almost approaching imbecility, who seem to be nearly as unable as they are unwilling to distinguish between right and wrong. It is in this unpromising and barren field, we have been called to labor; and if there have been any good and wholesome fruits produced in this unpropitious soil, the sovereign and almighty grace of God has been the cause. They that have been made *really* better in character and conduct,

have been so made not by *might*, nor by *power*, but by *His Spirit*.

More prisoners have been received during the past year than in any preceding one. This is owing in part, no doubt, to an increased prevalence of intemperance, and, perhaps, in some degree, to the abundant population collected into this vicinity by the building of our public works.

One hundred and ten prisoners have been received within the year. Of these, fourteen could not read at the time of their reception. Ten of this number have learned to read with more or less fluency. Of the one hundred and seventy-four at this time in prison, there are but six who cannot read. Two of them are of very feeble intellect; and the other four are but lately imprisoned, who, no doubt, in time, will learn to read. A large proportion of the whole number can both write and cypher.

Eighty-nine of the one hundred and ten received within the year, acknowledge that they were *intemperate*. Their moral sense was seared, if not entirely destroyed, by the habitual use of *intoxicating drinks*. They lost all regard for character and moral right by the influence of *drunkenness*, and became the felons they now are. It is deserving of notice, too, that almost all of them associate together as causes tending to effect their ruin, *disregard of parental authority and habitual desecration of the Sabbath*. The disobedient child and violator of the Sabbath soon becomes a *drunkard*, and then a degraded convict. How large a proportion of the crime that makes prison-houses necessary, and of the enormous expenses connected with the administration of public justice, may be traced to the *drinking usages* of society!

Seventy-eight of those received are unmarried; thirty-two have families: more than two-thirds are comparatively young men.

Two prisoners died within the year. One of these (1196) was an insane man, frequently referred to before. He came



to the prison an insane man: he remained so all the years of his imprisonment; and he died without a single ray of light shining upon his clouded and disordered mind. The other (1320) was a colored boy of vicious character. He was taught to read, and instructed in the way of salvation. Whether he realized at all his natural depravity, and his need of a Divine Saviour, is a question of painful doubt.

Seventy prisoners have been discharged during the year. Some of them gave fair promise of future good conduct, and others seemed to care but little for the restraints of either Divine or human law. Those of them who had come in ignorant and uneducated, had been taught to read, and had read the Bible. Not one of them was without some knowledge of the Saviour provided for fallen men. May we not hope that this knowledge of the right way, will, in some degree, be to all of them a restraining influence from crime.

The means employed to effect a permanent reformation, and create a better character amongst those who are shut up in this prison-house, have been used with an humble dependence on Divine grace. The gospel of our blessed Lord has been preached to them on each Sabbath in the plainest and most simple language. Great care has been taken to urge upon their attention the necessity of Divine power, in order to produce sincere repentance and lasting reformation. Our faith is strong in the efficacy of the Word of God in creating that change of character which distinguishes the truly penitent. For this end, too, they have been visited day by day in their cells. The ignorant have been taught to read, so that they might know their duty to God and man, and learn to perform it. They have always been encouraged in the belief that the sincerely penitent, through the grace of the Redeemer, may win their way to the favor of God, and receive the kindness and approval of good men. Books, too, have regularly been furnished to them from the prison library, that thus their minds might be stored with knowledge

useful to guide them in their after lives. A Bible and prayer book, together with an arithmetic and slate, are a part of the permanent furniture of each cell.

With all these means of mental and moral cultivation furnished to them in abundance, the prisoners live *separate from each other*. Every effort is made to preserve them from all contaminating influences. They enjoy the society of the great and good of every age, who live in the books they have written. When the Sabbath returns, they listen to the word of life, as it is addressed to them through the opened doors of their cells. They mingle their voices together in the song of praise, sung to the God of salvation. They are visited regularly by those whose duty it is to encourage and cheer them in the pathway of truth. They see and converse with their overseers more or less every day. They correspond at stated periods—once in each quarter—with absent friends, and their hearts are made glad with letters from *home*. These are the uniform appliances for good, which distinguish the Pennsylvania system of *separate confinement* as here administered and which make *insanity* from *imprisonment* a *stranger* to our walls. With us, its tendency is to strengthen, rather than weaken, the mind of the convict. There are many prisoners here who will tell you that they have read more of useful and instructive books, and have acquired more of useful information in this prison, than they did in all their previous lives. For such as these, there is always hope in the future; they whose minds are in this way invigorated and stored with proper knowledge, carry within themselves a preventive against crime. Only let the community at large treat with kindness and attention the poor discharged convict, *who has prepared* himself and is *willing* to do right, and then the great reformatory design in the *separate system* will have accomplished its work.

There are, also, in this prison those who claim to have received far more valuable benefit than mere *education*, by the



means of grace which have reached them here—men, who say they have found God to be their friend, and have realized the inestimable value of his salvation. Such are the pretensions of 1238, 1327, 1339, 1439, 1466, and of many others whose numbers might be mentioned. The truthfulness, however, of these pretensions can be satisfactorily verified only when the discharged convict, back again in the world, consistently maintains the character he has professed whilst shut out from temptations to do wrong.

In attending to the moral interests of this prison, I have always found the Warden as careful, in his place, to promote the moral welfare of the prisoners, as he is to guard their comfort and to preserve amongst them the order and discipline necessary to the good government of the prison.

All the officers in this Institution, have continually afforded me every facility in their power to enable me to discharge the duties it has been my privilege to perform.

Respectfully submitted,

A. W. BLACK, *Moral Instructor.*

